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TO: ALL SUPERVISORS

FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

FIRE ACTIVITY UPDATE

Southern California continues to experience moderate to high fire conditions with high temperatures, low humidity, dry vegetation, and Santa Ana winds, and the "red flag warning" issued by the National Weather Service will continue through tomorrow, with winds expected to subside in the afternoon. However, strong winds are expected to continue through Saturday. Additional, specialized resources have been placed in the Santa Clarita, Calabasas, Malibu, Azusa, Duarte, and Claremont areas to help mitigate the danger.

Currently, there are two working incidents. The first is the "Airport IC", located in the Cottonwood Canyon area of Catalina Island. Personnel and equipment have been transported via hovercraft to the island to provide additional support for the resources already committed to the fire. Approximately 100 acres have burned, and one structure is threatened at this time. Erratic winds of approximately 30 mph with gusts to 50-60 miles per hour are hampering efforts to contain the fire. Resources will be working through the night and continued efforts to contain the fire will resume at daylight.

The second fire is the "Pacific IC", located in the area of Trancas Canyon near Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu. It has spread to 150 acres, with 200 structures threatened. Two structures have been damaged and we are awaiting an updated damage assessment. Mandatory evacuations are now taking place in coordination with the Sheriff's Department at the south end of Encinal Canyon with Malibu High School as the evacuation center. Fifty (50) engines are on the scene, and more resources are en route. Resources will be working through the night and continued efforts to contain the fire will resume at daylight. All allied agencies have been notified in the event additional assistance is needed. The cause has been identified as downed power lines.

I will keep you updated as matters progress. Please feel to call me if you have questions.

PMF:plf

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